

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application.

Claim of Priority

Applicants hereby claim priority from U.S. Pat. No. 6,529,587, filed as U.S. Appl. No. 09/300,109 on April 27, 1999.

Claims 1-20 over Cannon

In the Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,529,587 to Cannon et al. ("Cannon"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Cannon reference cited by the Examiner has all three inventors of the present application named as inventors therein. A claim of priority to USP 6,529,587 is made herein.

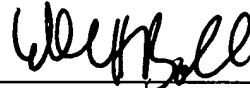
With the claim of priority made herein, claims 1-20 gain benefit of the filing date of USP 6,529,587, which is April 27, 1999. Thus, the Cannon reference cited by the Examiner is no longer prior art with respect to claims 1-20 of the present application.

For at least all the above reasons, claims 1-20 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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